AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) An energy-conserving ad hoc network including a plurality of nodes, each of the nodes comprising:

a transceiver configured to receive and transmit data messages;

processing logic;

a memory configured to store a schedule of reception times;

a bellringer transmitter; and

a bellringer receiver, wherein:

when the node is an existing node in the network,

the processing logic is configured to:

receive a wake-up signal via the bellringer receiver, and

responsive to the receiving of the wake-up signal, transmit, via the transceiver, a message including the schedule of reception times,

when the node is a node joining the network,

the processing logic is configured to:

transmit the wake-up signal,

receive the message from an existing one of the nodes in the network, and

join the network based on the message.

18. (original) The energy-conserving ad-hoc network of claim 17, wherein when the node is an existing node, the processing logic of the node is further configured to wait a random time interval before responding to the wake-up signal.

19. (original) The energy-conserving ad hoc network of claim 17, wherein when the node is an existing node, the processing logic further is configured to determine whether to respond to the received wake-up signal based on one of a random decision, a received signal strength of the wake-up signal, a current density of the network from a point of view of the existing node, and one or more certain time periods during which the existing node is configured to respond to the received wake-up signal.

20-38. (canceled).